

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently Amended) A fusion polypeptide wherein ~~comprising~~ an amino acid sequence from a non-VGF protein is covalently linked to an amino acid sequence of ~~as set forth in~~ SEQ ID NO: 7.

7. (Previously Presented) The fusion polypeptide of Claim 6, wherein the amino acid sequence from a non-VGF protein is an amino acid sequence of an IgG constant domain or fragment thereof.

8. (Previously Presented) A composition comprising the polypeptide of Claim 6 and a pharmaceutically acceptable formulation agent.

9. (Original) The composition of Claim 8 wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable formulation agent is a carrier, adjuvant, solubilizer, stabilizer, or anti-oxidant.

10-11. (Canceled)

12. (Previously Presented) The polypeptide of Claim 6, which is covalently modified with a water-soluble polymer, wherein the water-soluble polymer is polyethylene glycol, monomethoxy-polyethylene glycol, dextran, cellulose, poly-(N-vinyl pyrrolidone) polyethylene glycol, propylene glycol homopolymers, polypropylene oxide/ethylene oxide co-polymers, polyoxyethylated polyols, or polyvinyl alcohol.

13. (Previously Presented) The polypeptide of Claim 12 wherein the water-soluble polymer is polyethylene glycol or dextran.

14-21. (Canceled)

22. (New) The fusion polypeptide of claim 6, wherein the amino acid sequence from a non-VGF protein is a peptide that:

- a) aids in detection of the fusion polypeptide;
- b) aids in isolation of the fusion polypeptide;
- c) promotes oligomerization of the fusion polypeptide; or
- d) increases stability of the fusion polypeptide.

23. (New) The fusion polypeptide of claim 6, wherein the amino acid sequence from a non-VGF protein is a peptide that:

- a) is a transmembrane receptor protein or a portion thereof;
- b) is a ligand or a portion thereof that binds to a transmembrane receptor protein;
- c) is an enzyme or portion thereof that is catalytically active; or
- d) has a therapeutic activity different from the VGF polypeptide that has an amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 7.